

typifies the life of the Filipino people as it does in other oriental countries. It is the staple food of the Filipino. It is the thing that occupies his attention more than any other. Rice-planting in the lowlands is an occasion for song, for love, and for neighborliness. To grow rice in the highlands the Ifugaos have built the stupendous rice terraces which hang like gardens in the sky.

*Palay*, meaning the rice plant, is grown in each of the provinces of the Islands more or less extensively. However, the five provinces comprising the greater portion of the central plain of Luzon and the plains of Cotabato, Mindanao, are the regions most favorably adapted to rice-growing on a large scale. Even so, the rice produced in the Philippines has been insufficient for local consumption. As a consequence it has been necessary to import considerable quantities of rice, principally from French Indo-China, and practically no rice has been available for export. But with sugar land plowed up and flooded to grow rice, and with an increased yield from irrigated land and from a more careful selection of seeds, it may be expected that henceforth the Philippines will supply its own needs for rice and even have a surplus.

It was only in 1934 that rice exports exceeded rice imports. During that year, the United States, for the first time, imported Philippine rice in an appreciable quantity. That promising start was almost immediately halted by the enactment in 1935 by the Congress of the United States of a law placing a one cent a pound processing tax on rice.

The planting season of rice is celebrated in the Philippines as corn husking is in the United States. Rice-

planting usually  
begins in the early part of June and ends in  
the latter part  
of August. Often it is made a community affair.  
The farmer  
supplies the eatables and his friends supply the  
man- and  
woman-power, for men and women work side by  
side- in the  
fields. To the accompaniment of guitars and  
harmonicas and  
with song and laughter, the seedlings are made  
ready, the land